

REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement/Election of Species dated September 28, 2009, Applicants elect the invention of Group I including claims 40-48 and 58-67. In addition, Applicants further elect Species IV. All claims 40-48 and 58-67 read on the elected species. Non-elected claims 49-57 have been withdrawn.

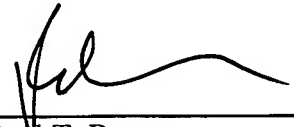
Applicants are unclear of the Examiner's species requirement as Species I (Figs. 1-12) relates one embodiment of a mask assembly, Species II (Fig. 12A) relates to varying the number of castellations 60 on the frame, Species III (Figs. 18-20) relates to assembly of the mask assembly shown in Figs. 1-12, and Species IV (Figs. 31A-31I) relates to a mask assembly which the specification (e.g., see Paragraphs 91-92) describes as similar to that shown in Figs. 1-12 but with an alternative arrangement for attaching a hose to the elbow. As all of the species are interrelated, claims 40-48 and 58-67 read on the elected species, e.g., the embodiment of Figs. 31A-31I includes the claimed usage indicator (claims 40-45), frame connection (claims 45-48), and valve member (claims 58-67).

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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